

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached five (5) replacement sheet of drawings include Figs. 1-6D. These sheets replace the original sheets including Figs. 1-6D. Corrections to the drawing sheets have been made to the character of lines, numbers and letters and numbers, letters and reference characters as listed on the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review sheet (Form PTO-948) dated April 4, 2006.

Attachments: 5 Replacement Sheets Figs. 1-6D

REMARKS

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-20 stand rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0065126 to Miller et al. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 12 and 18. The amendment to claim 4 eliminates the use of the "alphanumeric" term, that the Examiner correctly noted was not present in claims 1 or 2.

While both Miller and the present application disclose the use of a form (e.g., sphere) for determining a game award, the embodiments of the present invention permit much greater versatility and provide much greater excitement for determining that award.

Specifically, Miller discloses a sphere or diamond (figures 8-13, and corresponding description). In each instance, a single game award is depicted in a designated segment of the sphere or diamond. The segments are akin to slices of an orange (paragraph [0079]). Therefore, a vertically directed pointer is able to identify a single segment and the corresponding depicted award. In essence, the sphere or diamond is a 3-D embodiment of the Wheel of Fortune concept (Figs. 2-4 and 7). And like the 2-D wheel, the 3-D wheel is only able to identify one award per pointer.

Contrarily, the embodiments of the present invention are facilitated by a 3-D form having multiple reflective units configured in vertical and horizontal paths comprising multiple reflective units. Consequently, a single pointer identifies an entire path of possible game awards which may then be further narrowed down by illumination means used to illuminate numerals or symbols for determining a game award. In one embodiment, the form is a sphere substantially covered with rectangular reflective units indicative of a disco ball wherein one or more pointers may identify one or more paths of reflective units.

In order to anticipate a claim under section 102, the single reference must disclose, suggest or teach each and every element of the subject claim(s). In this case, Miller fails to disclose, suggest or teach at least one element of the independent claims, namely 1, 6, 12 and 18, of the present application.

Particularly, Miller fails to disclose, teach or suggest "a plurality of reflective units configured in vertical and horizontal paths comprising multiple reflective units" as recited in the amended independent claims. Miller only discloses segments comprising a single

award. By configuring the reflective units in horizontal and vertical paths, a single pointer is able to identify a series of potential awards arranged in horizontal and vertical paths. For example, in Fig. 3 of the present application, pointer 220-1 identifies a vertical path of 9 reflective units 230 each having a numeral or symbol depicted thereon. Similarly, pointer 220-3 identifies a horizontal path of 9 reflective units 230 having a symbol thereon. Indeed, although not claimed, pointer 220-2 identifies a diagonal path of 7 reflective units. During game operation illumination means can then be used to identify one or more final awards. In such a manner, the form and configuration of reflective units provides much greater versatility and provides heightened player excitement by first narrowing the potential awards to a path of awards and then illuminating a specific final award(s) along the identified path or paths as disclosed in the specification of the present application.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and, accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Should any questions remain regarding the allowability of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Date: September 11, 2006